

NATIONALS READY FOR FIRST GAME

Dixie Walker to Pitch Against Norfolk This Afternoon.

LINE-UPS FOR TODAY.

Washington. Brown, cf. Gessler, rf. Unglaub, lb. LeVitt, 3b. Conroy, 2b. McBride, ss. Hardy, Rapp, c. Walker, Gray, p. Reising, p. Otey, p.

NORFOLK, Va., March 19.—Manager McAleer gave his men a rest this morning, in anticipation of the first regular game of the season, which will be played with the Norfolk Virginia League club. The Washington squad has had about ten days' more practice than the Norfolk contingent, but the minor leaguers always extend themselves more than the majors in the spring exhibition games, and there should be a good contest.

"Dixie" Walker is recovering from his indisposition, and McAleer thinks he should be able to work out this afternoon for three innings, as the trouble is not in his arm, but was due to a cold. Charlie Street is still nursing his ankle, which is coming along as well as could be expected.

Vice President Eddie Walsh, Thornton Chesley, and Louis Weaver came to Norfolk this morning for the first game, and spent the forenoon hobnobbing with McAleer.

Bob Groom has not yet signed, but Mac says he is all right, and that for all practical purposes he is coming along as well as could be expected.

Groom's name already on a contract.

MARTELL TO JOIN BOSTON NATIONALS

Former Georgetown Player Leaves Tonight for Southern Camp.

Leon Martell, the former Georgetown athlete, was today sold by the Scranton Club to Boston, of the National League. Martell was sold by the Phillies to Scranton, but he refused to go to the minors and negotiations for his sale have been under way for some time. He leaves here this evening for Augusta, Ga., the training camp of the Boston club.

DONLIN HANDS OUT DECISION AT LAST

Has Three Contracts on Stage and "Will Not" Play Ball.

BOSTON, March 19.—Mike Donlin, the one-time mighty swatter of the New York Giants, is finally out of the game. Donlin is in Boston today with his wife, Mabel Hite, the comedienne. The ex-giant had barely arrived in the city when a telegram was handed to him. It was from John T. Brush, of New York, and said:

"Will you play ball, finally, or not?" Mike's answer was brief and to the point. It was, "I will not."

Donlin declared he was under contract to Leblond & Co. for three years.

SPORTING NOTES.

BOXING. Terry McGovern is training his brother Phil for his coming bouts.

Tommy Devlin, of Philadelphia and Leonard Lauder will meet in New Orleans tonight.

Ketchel says he will never box Papke again unless it is for a \$10,000 side bet. Ketchel has signed to meet Jim Howard in Memphis April 6.

As "Porky" Flynn had an operation on his nose recently, he has decided not to meet Morris Harris in Brooklyn next Monday night.

Casper Leon, the former champion bantamweight, declared in court in New York the other day that he was broke and had not earned a cent for several months.

Jack McAuliffe, the former lightweight champion, who is now doing a monologue, writes that if Jeffries wins back the heavyweight championship he will go in training and win back the lightweight title for the Irish race.

Young Loughrey and Dave Ryan will meet in New York next Tuesday night.

Benny Selig, of San Francisco, the former manager of Joe Gans, says he has signed a contract to manage Abe Attell. When it comes to signing the articles and counting the money after a battle, Attell is his own manager. Foxey Abe lets the managers do the bookkeeping for him.

COLLEGIATES. Yale should have an exceptionally strong golf team this spring with R. C. Gardner, the national champion, as one of its make-up.

Cooke, the Princeton sprinter, who won the sixty-yard dash at the New York A. C. games Tuesday night, is a corker, and will have to be watched this spring.

The Johns Hopkins University is to have an independent baseball team. The athletic association has refused to recognize or give any aid to the national sport.

REDS BUY CAMP. HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 19.—Manager Clark Griffith, of the Cincinnati Reds, has signed the papers here which bring to that club a permanent tract of ground for training season purposes.

Griffith says Hot Springs seems to be the best place for the grounds is not known, but is said to be in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

BOB GROOM GOT START ON HIGH SCHOOL TEAM

Willinger Worker Robert Is Expected to Do Great Things This Season—Has Not Rounded Into Shape Yet—Born in Indiana.

By THOMAS S. RICE.

NORFOLK, Va., March 19.—We cannot all be born with a cherry tree in the front yard, waiting for us to cut it down with a hatchet, so we can confess the hard work, received a licking, and become father of our country. Therefore, we can sympathize with Robert Groom, pitcher, who was born in Belleville, Ind., twenty-five years ago. The front yard to his home had none but locust trees, and if he had ever said he felled one of them with a hatchet he would have been known for a fibber right away.

His hatless head grew up in Belleville, where "Die Wach am Rhein" is the favorite song and St. Patrick's Day is not a public holiday. English is taught in the public schools there, but a sharp cry of "Zwei leites" accompanied by dime, penny and better results than a recitation of "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight."

Robert (no middle moniker) Groom played football and pitched for the Belleville High School. He broke into baseball when sixteen as a delivery end of the battery of Groom and Groom, the receiving end being a cousin Aleck. They jointly received \$15 per game, or \$7.50 each, for upholding Belleville's honor in the Trolley League that surrounds St. Louis.

His first engagement for regular wages was with Fort Scott, Kan., in the Missouri Valley League, in 1904. He progressed to Springfield, Mo., in the Western Association in 1905, and attracted enough attention to that town by his work to distinguish it from Springfield, Ohio, and Springfield, Ill., something the Missourians had been waiting many years to attain.

Robert continued to distinguish Springfield, Mo., at such a rate in 1906 that he was sold on the hoof in May of that year to Walter H. McCredie for delivery to the Portland, Ore., club the next season.

Thus it was that the man who had never cut down a cherry tree was a member of the Portland team in 1907, and took the popular name for the team was the Webfoot, due to the fact that Portland can have more rain to the square mile or Democratic barbeque than any other place known to science. It sometimes gets up in the middle of the night there to rain. Roses and

Walter McCredie are the great annual plants in Portland.

Our particular Webfoot won half his games in Portland in 1907, and won thirty and lost fifteen in 1908. This showing caused McCredie to sell him to Joe Cantillon, and he joined the Washington club at Galveston last year. His record in his first game with Washington was something like four bases on balls and two men hit in the first inning. He never quite equaled this wonderful performance afterward, but he nearly did so. The fans have great hopes that he will not this year.

He showed so much class that McCredie banked a lot on Groom for the 1910 season, and it looks like a pretty good bet. Some of the games he pitched last year were as clean-cut as any seen on the Washington grounds, and he was overhauling his wildness in a manner that spoke well for the future. He reached Norfolk last Wednesday night, having been detained at home ten days by tonsillitis, and it will take him a week to catch up with the rest of the boys, but we have a hunch that it is going to be a good year for him.

Don't place too much reliance on the showing made in exhibition games.

Should a ball player touch first with his right or left foot, and should he ever break his stride in order to conform to style? This question is agitating some members of the Washington club, and promises to furnish an endless chain of argument. Doc Gessler touches it with his left, McBride, Conroy and others with the right and, of course, Bob Unglaub says he touches it with first one and then the other, just as the circumstances require. The gabfest over this little-considered point arose as a result of some of the free advice given Clyde Milan. McAleer ended it temporarily by saying that any man who broke his stride or tried to leap a system of running that would require a new adjustment of his equilibrium after he was old enough to play major league baseball was foolish, and so it would seem.

Doc Gessler is one of the most thorough left-handed men in baseball. His right arm is as useless to him as the left is to most persons who have never gone in for athletics. He bats, throws, catches, and writes left-handed. He is left-legged also to an unusual degree, kicking a football with his port side foot when he was a gridiron star, and running left-legged. This accounts for the way in which he touches the bases, and it is hard for him to understand that it is not the only logical way to turn that trick.

GEORGETOWN OPENS SEASON WITH M. A. C.

Blue and Gray Team Gets First Tryout Today With Farmers.

Georgetown plays its usual opening game with the Maryland Agricultural College nine on the west end field this afternoon at 4 o'clock and judging from the condition of the weather, the contest should be better than those of the last several seasons when the chill made it uncomfortable for both spectators and players.

Georgetown is reported to be in good shape and primed for this game. Starting as it does with so many inexperienced players there is no way to get an available line on its strength, but the students at the university seem optimistically inclined over its prospects for the season.

The line-up: Maryland Agricultural College—Georgetown, pitcher; Grayson (captain), catcher; Saunders, first base; Woodward, second base; Lednum, third base; Shipley, shortstop; Burns, left field; Wright or Silver, center field; Furnace, right field.

Georgetown—O'Connor, Wymard, or Flannery, pitcher; Metcalf, catcher; Peenan, first base; Cogai, second base; Sutherland, third base; Gibson, shortstop; Harbin, left field; Murphy (captain), center field; Hunt, right field. Umpire—Mr. Handiboe.

FANS ARE IN DOUBT ABOUT ABE ATTELL

Champion's Showing Against Johnny Marto Is the Cause.

NEW YORK, March 19.—New York fight fans are not altogether certain today whether Abe Attell, the featherweight champion, has regained his old-time form.

In a ten-round go with Johnny Marto before the National Sporting Club last night Attell fought like the Abe of old for seven rounds and then sprung a flat tire, and permitted Marto to more than even up matters in the last three rounds. The spectators decided the contest a draw, but had it gone two more rounds Marto might have scored a knockout, for he had his little Hebrew antagonist on the wane.

AMATEUR QUESTION COMES UP ONCE MORE

Constitution Prohibiting Professionalism and Granting Commission Complete Power Is Adopted by Five Leagues—Others Will Likely Join Movement.

Smiles of great joy beamirch the countenance of the Washington amateur ball players today. A corresponding gloom is apparent on the physiognomies of a few of our near amateurs. There's a reason.

As a result of the meeting of the amateur commission and five presidents of the District leagues at Spalding's sporting goods store last evening, two important topics are now confronting the fans and players, and must be decided in the near future. One was partially decided last evening, when the five executives signed up for the improved method of handling the amateur question, namely, control by the amateur commission and absolute prohibition of professionalism. These two rules are now up to the amateur fans, and the Capital City League in particular. The following leagues, Departmental, Sunday School, Marquette, Suburban, and Railroad Y. M. C. A., have already joined the ranks of the up-lifters.

Sure to Go Through.

According to a prominent member of the commission the reformed promise of the amateur game will go through whether the Capital City joins the movement or not. That league's view of the matter has not yet been officially expressed. The official points out that should any resistance be offered by the Capital City League folk it can only be detrimental to themselves as already the five leagues mentioned above have been incorporated and the players therein will not be allowed to play outside of the commission's jurisdiction.

This would undoubtedly play havoc with a majority of the rosters of the First and M street organization as nearly one-third of its lists are members of one of the incorporated leagues, the Departmental particularly.

"But, stated the commissioner," we have had no intimation that the Capital City will join hands with us. On the contrary we have had several of its managers express favorable views on the new venture, several going as far as to endorse an alliance with us. As this is the thing for which a large majority of the fans and promoters have been working for the past five years it is an earnest hope that all of the organizations will figure the alliance the only sensible solution to what has proved a

very worrisome question, and get in as soon as possible.

One report of the meeting published this morning stated that the original constitution adopted by the commission had been changed in three sections. While three changes were made they were only in the wording of the passages and do not affect the original meaning.

The real bone of contention among the players will no doubt regard the professionalism clause. There can be no mistaking the meaning of this section. It demands absolute amateurism, which, if adopted by all as it has been by five, will perfect the plan so diligently striven for by the commission ever since its organization. So strict is this rule that almost the thought of professionalism is intolerable.

Its effects will be a matter of opinion. Those who hold that players should be allowed to make what they can may be opposed. The simon pure adherents will be gratified. The latter class is in the majority. It is generally known that some professionalism has existed for years. Likewise that but few players are benefited. Again it is the minority that is affected and not the real body of amateur players. Which will it be?

Urges Pure Game.

Those on the commission feel reasonably certain that the whole affair can be patched up suit all hands. They are expecting no opposition from the affected players. Mr. Boligiano has this to say this morning: "We have known all along that professionalism existed, but were powerless to prevent it. Under the new constitution we have that right and its rules must be adhered to. Personally, and I think that I may also include every member of the present commission, I favor the idea of the ball player obtaining money for his services. But not in an amateur league. The very meaning of the word is antagonistic to a procedure. If it continues, we will have the same trying state of affairs that we have had for years. If it is stopped, I feel certain the game will be vastly bettered. I do not think that the players who have been receiving money will register any kick on the change and hope they will not. We have a pretty sensible lot of fellows in our leagues and I think they will readily perceive the advantages of pure amateurism as opposed to the present condition of some forty or fifty receiving money and the others playing just as we propose under the new code.

One side of the question, that of the amateur commission and the five presidents, has been decided for good and for all. The other is open. How do you feel about it? H. M. D.

AMATEUR DRIVERS WANT RECOGNITION

And Many Leaders Are Disposed to Give It to Them.

By HARRY WARD.

Amateurism has always been a burning question in all sports and now it is becoming a live issue in the automobile sporting world. The situation is admirably stated by Automobile Topics, which says:

"It was not to be supposed that amateur drivers who, after all, are a majority, would continue indefinitely to rest passively in inconspicuousness, or endure the slight of professionals and semi-professionals monopolizing races and all other competitions. The only reason the matter has lain dormant so long is that automobilizing, while a sport, is much more than this. Or, to put it another way, the sporting aspect is only one of many aspects. The professional driver is, of course, one who devotes his entire time to handling and looking after a car, and also, as a matter of course, he becomes more expert and more proficient than the motorist who drives as a recreation or at odd times. Furthermore, so long as the strict amateur line is not drawn in competitions, a professional has the call. It is equally natural that the amateur driver should finally become tired of forever being ousted from the limelight by the professional. So long as he drives at all he dreams of participating in and attaining success in contests of some sort, and, as the superior expertness of the professional makes it a foregone conclusion that the latter will be successful when pitted against the amateur, it was only a question of time when the matter of separating the classes would come up. That time is now here.

The present movement, however, if carried a long way forward, does not threaten the professional driver with extinction. The general public needs little of amateurism or professionalism when the matter before it is a sporting match. It wants the best display of skill and daring, the fastest driving, the most expert management. Therefore, any talk of a Vanderbilt race for amateur drivers, exclusively, would be foolish in the extreme. Nothing of the kind is intended by the organizers of the two new associations. There is just a natural disposition to give amateurs, themselves, a chance to figure in competitions of the future. As such it is a commendable desire, and the outcome will be watched with a great deal of interest."

Believing that an injustice was done Vice President James S. Sherman and the high position which he holds when the House of Representatives voted against the bill appropriating money for the maintenance of an auto for his official and private use, Benjamin Briscoe, president of the United States Motor Company, has offered Mr. Sherman the use of a Columbia car in Washington. In a letter to the Vice President, Mr. Briscoe says:

"My attention has been drawn to the news dispatches from Washington, stating that the House of Representatives has voted against a bill allowing you an automobile for official and private use. To me, it appears that this is a gross injustice to the high position which you hold. In my opinion the Vice Presidency is too much overshadowed and neglected. I take this opportunity of offering you the use of a Columbia car, and if you accept this offer, I will instruct our Washington house to have one for your disposal."

The latest purchaser of a six-cylinder Matheon touring car is William D. West, a former president of the Automobile Club of Washington. The sale was made by the Pope Automobile Company. The same company reports the sale of an Oakland roadster to Dr. Gaskins.

RULES PLAY HAVOC WITH SCHOOL STARS

Baseball Squads First Hit, and Now Track Outfits.

The campaign to maintain a high standard in studies among the athletes of the Washington high schools has played havoc with the field and track team.

Baseball was the first to suffer the loss of several of the best players in the league who were notified that they would not be allowed to play until they had heightened their standing. Hardly had the diamond squads been sorted out before the announcement came that many of the best athletes on the track would come under the ban. The exact amount of damage will not be clearly known until outdoor work is begun, but the indications are that several familiar faces will be missing. One squad is said to have lost six stars.

SOUTHLAND FEARS RESULT OF FIGHT

If Johnson Should Whip Jeffries Martial Law Is Looked For.

DALLAS, Tex., March 19.—If James J. Jeffries does not whip Jack Johnson next July, the South is apt to see more trouble than it has experienced since the days following the original Emancipation day.

The South fears the fight. It is pulling for Jeffries, not alone because he is a white man, but because the South wants to see trouble averted, and the only way it can be averted is to have the white man win.

There is a negro barber, porter, bell boy or plantation dandy in the Southland who is not betting all the money he owns, and who is not in other ways on Johnson. And if the black man wins—the South hates to think of the result.

Johnson whipped Ketchel things were bad enough, remarked an old newspaper here today: "but if Jeffries gets licked by Johnson—well, I'm afraid they will have to declare martial law."

Y. M. C. A. SWIMMERS PLAN A DUAL MEET

BALTIMORE, March 19.—The first dual swimming meet between Washington Y. M. C. A. and Baltimore Central will be held in the local pool next Thursday evening. As these two associations have men entered in the South Atlantic championship it will be the "dopest" an opportunity to pick probable winners of the championship games.

NOBILITY TO SEE FIGHT. SAN FRANCISCO, March 19.—Word has been received here that a party of British noblemen, headed by the Earl of Rosebery, former premier of England, will come here next July to witness the Jeffries-Johnson fight. The party has already cabled for reservations and will cross the continent on a special train.

MEN'S SHIRTS FOR \$1 A new line of Plain and Pleated Men's Shirts, at a choice of patterns, most of patterns. Attached and detached cuffs. Special at \$1.

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My Story of My Life

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JEFF'S MEASUREMENTS.

Taken January 1, 1910, Before Training.

Neck 17 1/2
Shoulders 50
Upper arms and chest 44 1/2
Chest, normal 44 1/2
Chest, expanded 49 1/2
Waist 38
Hips 42 1/2
Thigh 25 1/2
Knee 17
Calf 17 1/2
Ankle 10 1/2
Wrist 7 1/2
Fore-arm, normal 12 1/2
Fore-arm, flexed 13 1/2
Right upper arm, normal 14 1/2
Left upper arm, normal 14 1/2
Left upper arm, flexed 13 1/2

CHAPTER IV.
I Have My First Big Schoolboy Fight.

MY father used to tell stories about our fighting ancestors every now and then, but not often enough to excite too much interest. "The Jeffries family was

born in the Revolutionary war and in the Indian wars," he used to say, "and let me tell you, though they were a quiet and peace-loving people, they never allowed themselves to be whipped."

That was the principle I tried to follow. I never picked up a stick, but if one started in spitting at me I took to my heels. The surest way to prevent that was to pound the other fellow under my heel.

When I was a small boy in the Arroyo Seco School, near our home ranch, there was a bigger boy in the school named Fred Hamilton. Fred and I had some rivalry, although at that time I hadn't grown very tall. He was nineteen years old and weighed about 150 pounds. I weighed about 140, but I was stocky and broad and strong even then.

One day Hamilton and I got into an argument. After a few words he reached over and hit me. Now, my father used to say, "If an enemy smite thee, turn the other cheek." I thought that was all right, but if he hit the other cheek, too, whatever followed was his own fault.

"Hit Me Once More."

Remembering the Bible lessons at home, and these precepts always laid down by my father, I turned the other cheek according to rule.

"Just hit me once more," I said, "and I got mad."

He did it. And then things began to happen. I might not have had a chance with him when we were both on our feet, but I caught him with a hip lock at the first rush and three him flat on the ground. Before he could wriggle away I was on top, hammering with both hands. I didn't know anything about fair standing fighting in those days and didn't bother my head about ring proprieties. Everything went. Hamilton couldn't

throw me off and I gave him a fierce beating. His eyes were blackened and his face bruised when I got through. Then I let him up and went back into the school house. He followed.

Of course, there was an investigation on the spot. "Did you do all this damage?" asked the teacher, after taking a good look at Fred.

"I did," said I. The teacher looked at the big fellow and laughed. The difference in our sizes made it seem ridiculous, I guess. At any rate, teacher wouldn't believe that little Jimmy was the guilty party, and refused to punish me.

Hamilton and I had many a good laugh over it years afterward when I told him the story.

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BOCOK REMAINS AS V. P. COACH

Former Georgetown Player Signs Contract for Another Year.

Branch Bocock, of this city, has signed a contract to remain another year at Virginia Polytechnic Institute as coach of all athletic teams.

When Bocock took charge at Blacksburg last September it was with the understanding that he was to leave in June, but so consistently successful has he been that V. P. I. authorities made him the bigger offer ever made an athletic coach there and Bocock has agreed to remain.

Following the remarkable showing in football last fall the V. P. I. basketball team went through its season without a defeat, and the prospects for the year are exceedingly bright.

The agreement for the next year was brought about at this time because two universities in the South were anxious to obtain Bocock.

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